AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating a combined information handling and food processing system wherein food items pieces can be conveyed between processing means while a computer system traces its position and preserves information representing its origination and while the food item pieces is are processed, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a data set of a first type representing origination of an item in memory of a computer system,

conveying the food item pieces to process means,

separating the food item pieces into sub-food items pieces by the processing means,

selecting sub-food items pieces for a batch,

tracing the positions of the food item pieces and the sub-food items pieces using the computer system,

assigning data from the data set of the first type representing the origination of the selected sub-food items pieces selected for the batch,

assigning an identifier to the batch,

defining a data set of a second type which comprises the assigned data and the assigned identifier, and

storing the defined data set in the memory of the computer system,

wherein the selected sub-food item pieces for the batch is a mix of sub-food item pieces from different originations.

2. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 21, wherein the data set of the second type further comprises information relating to the processing of an a food item or sub-food item piece.

8. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 7, wherein the information relating to the processing of the food item piece or sub-food item piece comprises information identifying a processing resource or facility which has been in contact with the food item piece or sub-food item piece.

9. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 31, wherein the selecting of sub-food items pieces for a first type of batches is based on a selection criterion wherein sub-food items pieces are combined in a batch so that the weight of the batch is within a predetermined range.

10. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 51, wherein the selecting of sub-food items pieces for the second type of for batches is based on a selection criterion wherein the sub-food items pieces are combined in the batch so that the number of different origins of the sub-food items pieces is within a predetermined range.

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11.   (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of packaging a batch in a package and assigning data from the first or second set of data to the package to indicate origination of sub-food items pieces in that package.

12.   (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 11, further comprising assigning data from the second set of data to the package to indicate processing resources or facilities which have been in contact with sub-food items pieces in that package.

13.   (Currently Amended) A combined information handling and food processing system comprising :

a conveyer for conveying food items pieces to a processing means for separation of each of the food items pieces into sub-food items pieces, and

a computer with a memory, the computer being adapted to:

store a data set of a first type representing an origination of an-a food item piece in the memory,

select sub-food items pieces for a batch,

trace the positions of the food items pieces and each sub-food items pieces,

assign data from the data set of the first type representing the origination of the selected sub-food items pieces to the batch,

assign an identifier to the batch,

define a data set of a second type which comprises the assigned data and the assigned identifier, and

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store the defined data set in the computer memory, said selected sub-food item

pieces for the batch being a mix of sub food items pieces from different originations.

14. – 17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 16, adapted to select the

residual amount of sub-food items pieces for batches of the second type.

19.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 14, wherein the data set of

the second type further comprises information relating to the processing of an a food item piece

or sub-food item piece.

20.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 19, wherein the

information relating to the processing of the food item piece or sub-food item piece comprises

information identifying a processing resource or facility which has been in contact with the food

item piece or sub-food item piece.

21.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 15, wherein the selecting

of sub-food items pieces for a first type of batches is based on a selection criterion wherein sub-

food items pieces are combined in a batch so that the weight of the batch is within a

predetermined range.

22.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 18, wherein the selecting

of sub-~~food items~~ pieces for the second type of batches is based on a selection criteria wherein

the sub-~~food items~~ pieces are combined in the batch so that the number of different origins of the

sub-~~food items~~ pieces is within a predetermined range.

23.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 13, further comprising

packing equipment for packaging a batch in a package and for assigning data from the first or

second set of data to the package to indicate origination of sub-~~food items~~ pieces in that package.

24.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 13, further comprising a

set of electronic tags and means for transferring data between the computer and the tags, the

system being adapted to receive information from one primary tag and transfer the data to a

number of secondary tags, said number corresponding to the number of sub-~~food items~~ pieces

arising from the separation of the food ~~item~~ piece.

25.   (Currently Amended) The A-system according to claim 24, further comprising a

meat item separation device which is controlled by the computer to separate the food ~~items~~

pieces into the number of sub-~~food items~~ pieces.

26.   (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said different originations of

said sub-food item pieces include data indicating from which animal the sub-item pieces

originate from, from which farm the sub-item pieces originate from, or from which country the

sub-item pieces originate from.